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Legal Beagle's Blog Archive for December 2015

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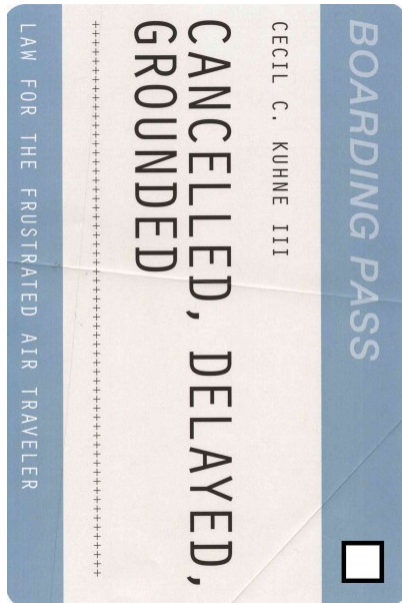
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Legal Beagle's Post

Cancelled, Delayed, Grounded

Posted by Library Blog on 12/04/2015 at 11:28 AM

According to the US Department of Transportation, [Bureau of Transportation Statistics](#), "The average Thanksgiving long-distance trip length is 214 miles, compared with 275 miles over the Christmas/New Year's holiday. For the remainder of the year, average trip distance is 261 miles."



While there are many stories about air travel travails (missing baggage, delayed flights, unruly passengers, etc.), there is one book a law student can read to soothe any fears about upcoming travel plans. [Cancelled, Delayed, Grounded: Law for the Frustrated Air Traveler](#) by Cecil C. Kuhne III is available in the law library for your reading pleasure.

With practical information about your air travel rights as well as chapters about notable air travel-related cases, this relatable book can help you get through an air travel conundrum. At the very least, it is worth considering as a holiday gift for the pilot, flight attendant or baggage handler in your family.

Legal Beagle's Post

The War on Christmas (Lights)

Posted by Library Blog on 12/15/2015 at 11:39 AM

Every year around this time we turn on the TV, the computer, and/or the radio and we hear about the war on Christmas. The Legal Beagle is a non-partisan dog and doesn't want to have political conversations around the holiday table. Instead of blogging about the so-called War on Christmas, instead we will discuss researching the recent war on Christmas lights.

According to a 2014 [press release](#), "The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates there were 15,000 injuries involving holiday decorating seen in emergency departments nationwide during November and December 2012. " The [CPSC](#) is a federal agency charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of injury or death associated with the use of consumer products. This summer the CPSC issued a [regulation for Christmas lights](#) deeming some holiday decorations a "substantial product hazard."

The screenshot shows the CPSC website's search results for the query "christmas lights". The search bar at the top left contains the text "christmas lights" and "Search". To the right of the search bar, it says "Results 1 - 10 of about 1170 for christmas lights" and "Search took 0.13 seconds". Below the search bar, there is a "Navigate" section with a list of categories: Content Type, Products, and a list of specific products. The main content area displays a list of search results, each with a thumbnail image, a title, and a brief description. The first result is "Bethlehem Lights Recalls Christmas Trees Sold Exclusively by QVC Due to Fire Hazard | CPSC.gov". The second result is "Balsam Hill Recalls Pre-lit Christmas Trees Due to Burn and Shock Hazards | CPSC.gov". The third result is "Christmas Lights Recalled by Pepe Ganga Due to Fire and Shock Hazards | CPSC.gov". The fourth result is "Holiday Tea Light Candle Warmers Recalled by Christmas Tree Shops Due to Fire and Burn Hazards ...". The fifth result is "Seasonal Specialties Recalls Pre-lit Christmas Trees Due to Fire, Burn and Shock Hazards, Sold Exclusively ...". The sixth result is "Christmas Tree Lights | CPSC.gov". The seventh result is "Christmas Lights Recalled by Pepe Ganga Due to ...". The eighth result is "Christmas Lights Recalled by GEM Stores | CPSC.gov". The ninth result is "Christmas Light Sets Recalled | CPSC.gov". The tenth result is "Christmas Light Sets Recalled | CPSC.gov".

A fun research exercise is trying to find this regulation and information about this change online. The first place to check would be the [CPSC website](#). Unfortunately, using “christmas lights” as your search term results in many, many hits due to the number of recall notices on this website. However, if you choose the sort by date feature of the search tool, and then find the results from this summer when the new regulation was final (and the above news story was published by Fox News) you can find a link to an informational post titled [Seasonal Lighting \(Holiday Lights and Decorative Outfits\)](#) which provides information about the change.

Searching “christmas lights” for the regulation on Westlaw Next and Lexis Advance isn’t much help but if you slightly change the search to “seasonal lights” it is much easier to find the regulations and information from the Federal Register. Once you find the Federal Register citation (80 F.R. 25216), learning out more about the change is easy!